

(c) Yes, Sir. Construction of ADS would take around 10 years. In the meantime adequate force level would be maintained through suitable replacements, acquisitions, etc.

(d) The cost is likely to be about Rs. 1700 crores.

(e) and (f) Government have recently approved a proposal for construction of two submarines at Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in order to utilise the expertise and facilities available with MDL as also to catch up with the force levels.

UNDP Report

1881. SHRI SANAT MEHTA :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether India stands 138th in the Human Resources Development Index out of 175 countries in the world, as per the report of UNDP 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Comparatively lower life expectancy at birth, lower literacy level and low real per capita Gross Domestic Product are the reasons for the low ranking.

(c) As per the Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), the objectives of the Plan, inter-alia, include accelerating the growth rate of the economy, providing basic minimum services of safe drinking water, primary health care facilities, universal primary education, shelter and connectivity to all in a time bound manner.

ISRO Buys Titanium

1882. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "ISRO buys titanium, gets bricks" appearing in the *Deccan Chronicle* dated June 11, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Mishra Dhatu Nigam had imported aluminium vanadium alloy from a German firm and after converting the same into titanium alloy, it was supplied to ISRO;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A consignment of 1,000 kgs of aluminium vanadium master alloy valued at Rs. 7.5 lakhs imported by Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd. (MIDHANI) from Germany was found to have been pilfered and substituted by construction bricks. This was discovered immediately after MIDHANI's clearing agent had delivered the consignment to the company's representatives at Bombay.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. MIDHANI has been importing aluminium vanadium master alloy from Germany for meeting its production requirements of titanium alloy for supply to ISRO.

(e) An FIR has been lodged with the police against the pilferage and the State Government of Maharashtra has been requested to expedite investigations.

International Status to Amritsar Airport

1883. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had a proposal to give international status to the Airport at Amritsar in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details of the action taken and facilities extended to give international status to the Airport at Amritsar; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be given full fledged status and facilities of an international Airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) and (c) Amritsar airport has already some facilities to cater to limited international flights. Extension of runway, construction of technical block-cum-control tower and extension of apron are being planned. Air India has also been asked to resume its flights to Birmingham. Further upgradation of facilities will depend on the volume of traffic and availability of funds.

Cracks in Taj Mahal

1884. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of cracks have appeared in the Taj Mahal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to repair the cracks and the time by which the repair work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) and (b) As per old records, some structural cracks had developed in the Taj Mahal immediately after it was constructed. Most of them have been treated but some of them are

kept in original position for further observation. Some surface cracks have occurred over the years due to oxidization of iron clamps used for joining of stones, besides thermal cracks and stress cracks. These cracks are being attended to by the Archaeological Survey of India on a continuous basis.

Incident of Armymen in Kashmir

1885. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
 SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH
 GAEKWAD :
 SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR :
 SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY :
 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Jawan runs amok, kills Col." appearing in 'The Hindustan Times', New Delhi dated June 17, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct an inquiry into the causes of such incidents in which army men have been killing their superiors or colleagues;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken to prevent such incidents occurring in the army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) An army Havildar shot dead a Colonel, a Captain and two Subedars before killing himself at Hirpur in Jammu & Kashmir on 15th June, 1997.

A study has been ordered at the level of Army Headquarters to go into these incidents.

Air Borne Warning and Control Systems by IAF

1886. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Air Force has proposed requirement of Rs. 3000 crore for Airborne Warning and Control Systems;

(b) if so, whether the Government have given its approval; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to ensure optimum utilisation of air defence aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) A proposal has recently come from the IAF for acquisition/

development of Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), which is under consideration.

[Translation]

Army Training Command

1887. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Army Training Command has been set up for deciding principles regarding contemporary and future methods of war;

(b) if so, whether certain rules are evolved and published in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of Training Commands set up so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) An Army Training Command has been set up to assist the Army in its preparedness for war by developing and disseminating concepts and doctrines (including logistics) for current and future warfare at operational and tactical levels and acting as the nodal agency for institutional training.

Army Headquarters have issued, for internal circulation, administrative instructions on the functions and charter of duties of the Army Training Command.

[English]

Construction of Airport at Bijapur

1888. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has already been conducted for the construction of Airport at Bijapur in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether any place has been identified for the proposed airport at Bijapur;

(c) whether the State Government has agreed to provide land and other infrastructural facilities for the proposed airport;

(d) whether any budget provision has been made for the proposed airport during 1997-98;

(e) whether the Government intend to construct the proposed airport by private sector;

(f) if so, the details of the MOU, if any, entered into between private parties and the Government; and

(g) the estimated cost of the proposed airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A site 6 kms. from Bijapur city has been identified by an AAI team for the construction of a new airport for 50-seater aircraft, at the request of the State Government.